

Abstract of the Disclosure

There is provided a scanning optical system including a collimator lens being placed on an optical path between a light source and a deflecting system. At least one of a front surface and a rear surface of the collimator lens includes a central area through which part of the laser beam in the vicinity of a central axis of the laser beam passes, at least one first outer area having an effect on the laser beam so that the laser beam after passing through said at least one first outer area is given a first phase difference not including a phase difference of zero, and at least one second outer area having an effect on the laser beam so that the laser beam after passing through said at least one second outer area is given a second phase difference being different from the first phase difference and including a phase difference of zero.